

# Cumbria Association of Local Councils

## Allerdale District

Liaison officer

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### **Report by Liaison Officer to the Annual Meeting Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

#### **1. Meetings**

There were four three tier meetings in the year. These were held in September 2015 January 2016, March 2016 and June 2016. The September meeting incorporated the annual meeting of Allerdale District of Cumbria Association of Local Councils. The aim is to hold meetings in different locations through the borough and in the year under review the four locations have generally speaking met the aim.

#### **i) September 2015**

At the annual general meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at Wigton Market Hall Rick Petecki from Embleton and district parish council was elected chairman of the Allerdale Association of Local Councils. Geoff Smith from Crosscanonby parish council was elected vice chairman and second Allerdale representative to the county executive committee. Geoff sadly died during the summer. An executive committee was elected with Margaret Throp (Above Derwent PC), Alan Clouston (Plumbland PC), Jenny Alexander (Kirkbampton PC) and David Colborn (Boltons PC) joining Geoff Smith and Rick Petecki. Officers from United Utilities spoke about the West Cumbria water supply project which is to connect Thirlmere to the communities in Allerdale and Copeland. National Grid and Electricity North West officers spoke about the West Coast connections project which would provide a major power line from the proposed nuclear plant at Moorside near Sellafield to the existing national grid infrastructure. Both principal authorities outlined their budget consultation plans and the borough council provided information on the present position relating to footway lighting. The meeting was chaired by Rick Petecki from Calc.

#### **ii) January 2016**

This meeting was originally planned for December 2015 but severe flooding in Cumbria with a number of settlements in Allerdale suffering very badly meant the

meeting was held over until January. It was chaired by Mike Heaslip as a portfolio holder from the district council. An officer from the Cumbria Clinical Commissioning group spoke about the Success Regime project and an Allerdale borough council officer outlined the coast communities' project. Two bids for DCLG grants had been made one for the south of the borough's coastline and the other for the north. The budget proposals from the two principal authorities were mentioned.

### **iii) March 2016**

The meeting was held in Cockermouth town hall and was chaired by Lizzy Shaw the county council officer in the absence of the chairman of the county council local committee for Allerdale. The main item was a discussion about flood recovery and emergency planning. Information on the decisions taken by the county council following the budget consultation was provided.

### **iv.) June 2016**

The meeting was held at Bothel village hall Rick Petecki chaired the meeting. Presentations were given on a number of topics. The principal authority officers spoke about health and well being across Allerdale. A county council officer and an officer from the Lake District National Park Authority provided information about the See More project. The county council officer explained how the Allerdale Flood Recovery Group had worked together in the months since the floods and how they now aimed to work and expand as an emergency resilience group.

## **2 Executive Meetings**

The executive met on a number of occasions in the year. Meetings took place in November 2015, February 2016, and June 2016. These in the main were to discuss items to be placed on the 3 tier meeting agendas. However other topics were discussed. The number of vacancies on parish councils following the May 2015 elections was taken up with the monitoring officer at the district council who agreed to consider a governance review. The United Utilities work at Keswick School had not been completed to a satisfactory standard and it was agreed to contact them again. Infrastructure projects in West Cumbria were discussed with further details below.

## **3 The County Executive**

Allerdale parishes have four representatives on the county executive. Margaret Throp who was elected by the full membership for a three year term at the November 2013 annual meeting, Rick Petecki the Allerdale district chairman and the vice chairman Geoff Smith were this year joined by Peter Bales (Workington TC) who was elected to serve for one year until the next round of full membership elections in November 2016

## **4 Managing Radioactive Waste Safely.**

Although the title will be well known to local councils Decc now prefer to talk about Implementing Geological Disposal and that is the title of the July 2014 White Paper.

In the year under review some progress has been made;

a) National geological screening guidance has been published. RWM Ltd, the body charged with taking forward the implementing Government policy relating to GDF is continuing to develop the information materials and which it intends to make available to communities. It is anticipated that the outputs of the screening will be presented as a series of brief narratives describing the key characteristics of the geological environment of a region and its relevance to safety. The narratives will be illustrated with maps, where appropriate

b) A decision has been taken by government to bring Geological Disposal Facilities within the definition of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects but work on this aspect is still not complete.

c) Consultations on the working with communities and land use planning aspects of the GDF siting process are still expected to be launched in the Autumn although the government changes introduced by the new Prime Minister with the merging of Decc with another government ministry may cause some delay.

## **5. Footway Lighting**

This topic has taken a back seat in the year with ENW not moving forward with their original proposals. It does seem as though the efforts made by the two principal authorities to produce a definite list of street/footway lights has proved too difficult to accomplish.

## **6. Infrastructure Projects in West Cumbria.**

### a) Moorside Power Station

There has been some progress on the Nu gen proposals with the company consulting across the county during the summer. We are told that over 1000 responses were received to the consultation document. The company are proposing a programme of further stakeholder engagement through autumn 2016 as their proposals for the project develop and reflecting key messages from the range of consultation responses received They maintain that they are on track to submit a Development Consent Order request in the second quarter of 2017 despite most respondents requesting further and better particulars of the scheme.

### b) National Grid

We were told that a consultation on their proposals would take place starting in June 2016. This was then put back to September 2016 and then to January 2017. National Grid then rowed back on January 2017 and a consultation will be held beginning in October 2016 through to Christmas 2016. Meetings are planned for local councils which will be in addition to a round of drop in events along the length of the line Allerdale councils will need to take a close interest in this project It will cross many parish boundaries.

### c) United Utilities Thirlmere Link

Planning applications are being made to three planning authorities in the county. At present none have been determined. The Applicant has indicated that a legacy grant scheme may be appropriate Parishes both inside and outside the National Park need to be aware of the proposal

